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Bond Granted In Dahmer Murder Case

HATTIESBURG, Miss. (AP) —Four men charged with murder and arson in the 1966 firebomb attack that killed negro leader Vernon Dahmer have been granted bond by a circuit court judge.

Bond was set Friday at $25,000 each for Henry E. Deboxtel, Lester Thornton, Charles R. Noble and James F. Lyons, all of nearby Jones County.

Judge Stanton Hall said, at the conclusion of the hearing, that he was allowing bond on the murder charge because officers said the four men were among those who burned Dahmer's store, and no one was hurt at the store.

A second carload of Ku Klux Klansmen involved in the early morning raid attacked the Dahmer house while he and his family were at home.

Deboxtel and Lyons won mistrials after a series of trials resulting from charges filed in the bombings. Cases against the other two have not come up and all four have been in jail since last January.

Bond was denied Charles C. Winson and Lawrence Byrd by Judge Hall.

In an earlier proceeding, Sam Bowers of Laurel, who won a mistrial on a charge of arson in the case, pleaded innocent to a new indictment charging him with murder.

The new indictment was returned last Mondy by the Forrest County Grand Jury and Bowers has been held in jail without bond since then.

Bonds for Thonton and Lyons were posted shortly after the ruling and attorneys said the other two would post bond shortly.